

**PUERTO RICAN EDUCATORS  
ASSOCIATION OF N. J. INC.**  
P.O. BOX 9237  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104



April 9, 1991

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Dr. Luis J. Salgado  
Assistant Commissioner  
Division of General Academic Education  
State Department of Education  
CN 508  
Trenton, New Jersey 08633-0508

Dear Dr. Salgado:

The Board of the Puerto Rican Educators Association of New Jersey in conjunction with the State Wide Education Task Force of the Puerto Rican Congress of New Jersey worked together and will present the following joint statement:

Sincerely,

*James Colon-Jorge*  
James Colon-Jorge  
President

177-1783

PUERTO RICAN EDUCATORS  
ASSOCIATION OF N. J. INC.  
P.O. BOX 6217  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104



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Comments

Definition of "Bilingual education programs" does not include the development of the language arts skills in the native language of the students nor teaching about the culture and history of the native land of the students and the history and culture of the United States.

Definition does not mean "full-time program of instruction."

Comments

Definition of "bilingual education program alternative" has been changed to "alternate instructional program" "Bilingual education program" has been deleted. New definition does not guarantee provision of bilingual services in the native language along with English as a second language instruction. "Alternate instructional program"

Recommendations

Definition of "Bilingual education programs" should remain as stated in P.L. 1974, c. 127 N.J.S.A. 18A:33-15 to 23

Recommendation

The "bilingual education program alternative" should remain the option given to district boards of education to address the specialized language and academic needs of students of limited English proficiency when a full-time program may not be established, such as the bilingual part-time component, the bilingual resource program, the bilingual tutorial program and the high intensity BSA program.

as defined does not clearly guarantee access to bilingual services for English as a second language instruction to address the specialized linguistic and academic needs of the students of limited English proficiency nor does not provide alternatives that may be established.

Delete "unless to do so would cause undue hardship for the district" from 7. Section 6 of P.L. 1974, C. 197 (C. 18-4: 35-36).

There are no provisions to guarantee access to an equal educational opportunity to LEP students with learning disabilities.

Establishment of full-time bilingual programs will be based on attendance area instead of district based. This measure will not allow for the establishment of magnet bilingual programs.

ELL instruction services should be offered to language groups who do not meet the threshold.

It should be no hardship for school districts to notify parents in writing in the language of which the parents of the students so notified possess a primary speaking ability. Drafts of letters in the different languages should be provided to school districts by State and County offices. Community based organizations and other institutions should be contacted to provide assistance to school districts.

Provisions must be made to guarantee bilingual full-time and part-time program for all limited English proficient students with learning disabilities.

Establishment of full-time bilingual programs district based not school based (attendance areas) when at the beginning of the school year, there are within the schools of the district, 15 or more students of limited English proficiency in any language classification.

May does not enforce the establishment of a full-time program in bilingual education for any language classification with less than 20 children therein.

Establishment of part-time programs in bilingual education based on "an attendance area" not on a "district" count.

#### Delete 4.C

If the district can demonstrate to the State Department of Education that it would be unreasonable, given the district's circumstances or resources or both to provide a full-time or part-time program in bilingual education, a district may receive an interim approval from the State Department of Education to implement an alternate instructional program. The district shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the State Department of Education that the program offers students of limited English proficiency the opportunity to acquire English proficiency to master subject course content and to fulfill promotion and graduation requirements.

4. a. At the bottom should read:  
that the board of education shall establish a full-time program in bilingual education for any language classification with less than 15 students therein.

The establishment of part-time programs in bilingual education should be based on a "district count" and not on "an attendance area" when there are 15 or more students eligible for the bilingual program in grade kindergarten through 12 and the district is able to demonstrate that due to the age range, grade span and/or geographic location of eligible students it would be impractical to provide a full-time bilingual program.

The State Education Department should enforce the establishment of part-time programs when full-time programs are not feasible. No other alternate programs should be considered. The bilingual program alternatives to be considered are the bilingual part-time component, the bilingual resource program, the bilingual tutorial program and the high intensity ESL.

"Alternate instruction programs" have not been clearly defined. They do not guarantee access to bilingual services nor English as a second language instruction.

Delate 4. d.

The State Education Department should enforce the establishment of bilingual full-time and/or part-time programs. No alternate instructional program option should be given.

Trenton, New Jersey  
April 6, 1991